

DEVOTION for PENTECOST 10

Psalm 145:10-21

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,
To make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works.

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

Ephesians 4:1-16

Oneness in the church, the body of Christ

Why is it important that we treat each other with humility and gentleness?

What things do all Christians have in common?

What does it mean to “*speak the truth in love?*”

John 6:22-35

I am the bread of life

Why does Jesus say believing in Him is “the work of God”?

What is the food that endures to eternal life?

How is Jesus, “*the bread of life?*”

“THE BREAD of LIFE”

God fed Israel in the wilderness with bread from heaven called ‘Mana’. Each morning they were to collect enough for their daily needs. If they collected more than they needed and tried to store it and hoard it, it rotted. Their trust was not in the bread, their trust was in the Lord who gave the bread. The bread was not the source of blessing, God blessed them through the bread. God is the source of blessing!

Jesus fed five thousand in the desert from five loaves and two fish. The next day some of that crowd came seeking more. They hadn’t understood the meaning of the sign and rather than spiritual nourishment, they wanted only the bread of the earth. Jesus reminded them of the limits of earthly nourishment. He said, “*Your Fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died.*” Daily bread can only nourish us for a short period of time. In a few hours we get hungry and need to eat again. No earthly bread can prolong life indefinitely. A time will come when our bodies will be unable to receive its nourishment and we will die.

Jesus calls us to receive from Him the bread that is able to sustain our souls in death and bring our bodies to life through His resurrection. He says whoever eats of the bread He gives will live forever! He is the living bread from heaven. He feeds our souls with the good news of forgiveness, life and peace with God received through faith in Him. He nourishes our faith with the forgiveness of sins and blesses us with the Holy Spirit, through sacrament of His body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. He refreshes our souls and renews our spirits daily with the water of eternal life in our baptism. More than we need food and drink for daily life, we need Jesus for daily bread. He gives life in time and for eternity!

Hymn: "O LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN"

(Public Domain)

O living bread from heaven, how well You feed Your guest!
The gifts that You have given, have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing, oh cup that heals our woes!
My heart this gift possessing, with praises overflows.

Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here.
My course on earth is lengthened, to serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit to leave the world below,
I enter through Your merit, where joys unmingled flow.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, you are the source of life of all living creatures. The psalmist sang, "*You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature.*" We thank you for the blessing of daily bread; everything that sustains and enhances our lives in the world. You are the source of our life in body and spirit. In infinite kindness you gave your Son as bread from heaven, which a person may eat through faith and never die. We thank you for the blessing of Jesus, in whom we receive spiritual nourishment in the forgiveness of sins; and the Holy Spirit to empower us for daily living. Nourish us always with bread from heaven in body and soul, until you call us to rise soul and body in the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ. In His Name. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION

Psalm 144:15b

"Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!"

Bible Knowledge Quiz

Who was the queen who visited Solomon to hear his wisdom?

Who was the queen who interceded with the Persian king for her people?

Who was the queen who heard Paul make his defense of the gospel, when he appealed to Caesar?

Answers to last week's quiz

Open the gates and welcome them into the city (Jeremiah 38:17).

Ask for a sign (Isaiah 7:10-12).

The sun to recede 10 steps on the stairs (2 Kings 20:8-11).